



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRIWEEKLY BY
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ALEXANDRIA, FRIDAY, FEB. 2.

A bill which had previously passed the U. S. House of Representatives, passed the Senate, yesterday, appropriating \$20,000 to the poor of the District of Columbia. It was properly objected to by Mr. Cockrell, of Missouri, but his objection was not sustained by a sufficient number to prevent its passage. Congress has been making similar appropriations for some years past, and doubtless with good intentions, but it has so happened that nearly all the money, that is distributed, goes to the able-bodied negroes, who not only abstain from seeking employment, but actually refuse it when offered; and so long as the government continues to supply them with food so long will the court rooms of Washington, the galleries of the Capitol, and the other comfortable lounging places about the District of Columbia, be filled, almost to the entire exclusion of other people, with lazy, worthless, and filthy negroes, and so long will the farmers in all the neighboring country be deprived of the labor they stand so much in need of to cultivate their now necessarily idle land.

The commissioners now deliberating upon the disputed presidential election are expected by the country to decide the case before them upon its merits, and not upon the legal technicalities that may be advanced by the distinguished counsel employed. The essential principle of free governments is that the majority shall rule; the people cast their ballots for either Hayes or Tilden, and what they want to know is, not whether the illegal provisions of certain laws enacted by partisan legislatures have been complied with to the letter, but which one of those two candidates received the most votes. A decision rendered in accordance with this idea will be satisfactory to all parties; and though any decision the commission may announce will be accepted, by the democrats at least, as abiding, if it be made upon any other ground it will be unsatisfactory, and the return of good feeling and business prosperity be hindered and delayed, for the people will naturally be discontented with a president who did not receive a majority of their votes.

The flags on the Capitol were not lowered last night, and will not be until the result of the presidential election be declared, for the law provides that the session of Congress for counting the electoral vote shall not adjourn until the result is declared, and as recesses are not regarded in the light of adjournment, the flags will fly until either Gov. Hayes or Gov. Tilden be announced as the President of the country. It is not known how long it will take to decide the case of Florida, but the prevailing impression is that no decision will be reached, at the shortest, in less than four days. Meanwhile the Joint Convention will not assemble again for counting the vote until a result is reached on the State hanging in the balance. The Judges of the Supreme Court who sit on the Electoral Commission attend, not in their imposing black silk robes, but in ordinary citizen's apparel.

A "side issue," connected with the evidence of the witness Maddox, but one that reveals the necessity for civil service reform in this country as distinctly as Littlefield's testimony shows that Louisiana cast her vote for Tilden and Hendricks, is the fact that the expenses of the mission on which he was sent by the president of the Louisiana returning board to sell the vote of that State were paid by the Government out of the fund for the internal revenue service; in other words, that the grievous taxation to which the country is subjected is, by authority of the radicals who now control the Treasury, for the purpose of not only supplying them with the means of luxurious and riotous living, and to debauch the people by the example of extravagant expenditure, but to buy votes to continue them in office and to pay the expenses of parties engaged in the sale of the votes of States.

PROTECTING A SISTER'S GRAVE.—On Thursday night some persons unknown made an attempt to steal from the Riverview Cemetery the body of Miss Anna Lytle, buried the day before. Her brother had been warned that such an attempt would be made, and spent the greater part of Wednesday night near the grave. Early on Thursday evening Joseph Lytle went to the house of the sexton, who informed him that about 7 o'clock he had heard a buggy cross the Laubery creek bridge and stop on the cemetery side. He went down toward the bridge, where he found a horse and buggy hitched behind an old unoccupied log house. About 9 o'clock he and the sexton went into the cemetery, and found two men at work shoveling the earth from the grave. When within about 75 or 100 feet the sexton discharged his revolver at them. They immediately fled, leaving their entire outfit, including the horse and buggy on the ground. The earth had been removed until they had reached the box in which the coffin was enclosed, and in a few minutes more the body would have been removed from the grave. On the ground were found two shovels, a hatchet, saw, and ropes. They also had a large canvas or tarpaulin, on which the earth had been thrown. Cincinnati Gazette.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections reported yesterday on the three cases of alleged ineligible electors, respectively from New Jersey, Missouri and Virginia. The committee found that the action of the New Jersey and Virginia electors in regard to the vacancies caused by the absence of the ineligible electors was in accordance with State laws, but in the case of Missouri the electors had no power under State law to fill the vacancy. The committee held that if the doctrine of Gov. Grover, of Oregon, be conceded, a republican elector should be counted in Missouri, and in Virginia.

Louisiana.

The Committee on the Powers, Privileges and Duties of the House had another meeting yesterday morning.

J. H. Maddox, in reply to Mr. Field as to whether he was willing to testify regarding any letters from Mr. Wells, first read the following paper:—

In explanation of my refusal to answer the question propounded to me yesterday, I deem it due to myself to state that my refusal arose from a disinclination to commit a breach of confidence. I asked for the delay with the hope that Governor Wells would be disposed to make a full statement of all the facts in the Louisiana case, and thus relieve me from my embarrassment. His failure to indicate a willingness to do so relieves me from further obligation to him, and I am now prepared to answer such questions as the committee may see proper to ask.

JOS. H. MADDOX.

Mr. Maddox then stated that he had not now the letters asked for by the committee, but could control them and would produce them before the committee. There is one letter to himself and two others to Senator West. They have been sent for, and will be in this city to-morrow (Friday). One of them was written at Governor Wells's office at the Custom-house. It was agreed upon the night before that the letter should be written.

Mr. Field.—State the conversation that took place the night before.

The Witness.—We had a conversation in regard to the political situation and the difficulties of the Returning Board. This was on the night of November 19. Gov. Wells wanted that I should go to Washington, and proposed to give me a general letter of credentials and another to a friend of his. When I came to his office the next morning one of the letters was finished, the other he was then writing, and after awhile sealed it, and it is still sealed. This letter is to Senator West. He said that he had a difficult task to perform; that his life was in danger; that he wanted to serve his party, but did not want to run the risk unless he was compensated for it. He stated that he would like to serve his party, to make the return for Hayes, but wanted to be paid for it. He said that the vote was very heavy for him to handle; that if it had been smaller he might have accomplished the desired result by throwing out New Orleans.

Q.—What did he ask you then? A.—He asked me to come on to Washington and see influential men and get protection and the money he wanted.

Q.—Did he say what amount he wanted? A.—He said he wanted a million of dollars.

Q.—On the 20th, you say, you went and got the letters; did you take those letters with you to Washington? I did, sir.

Q.—Did you make any use of them there? A.—I did of the two addressed to me.

Q.—To whom did you show them? A.—The larger one I showed to the President, the Secretary of War and some of my friends.

Mr. Field.—I will not ask you for your conversation with the President, but I want you to state your conversation with the Secretary of War. A.—I told him what Mr. Wells wanted, and the amount of money he asked. The Secretary declined to accede to the proposition.

Q.—What did you do next? A.—I took the other steps agreed upon between us.

Mr. Field.—Explain the memorandum about the members of the board resigning, and your conversation with Mr. Wells about that. A.—I am not sure that I had any conversation with Mr. Wells about that. I intended this more as a guide for Colonel Pickett, and it was a suggestion of mine. My idea was that the fifth man was to be elected, and that Gov. Wells should resign in anger. There was no special agreement between us as to the details, but it was understood that I was to arrange the plan and he was to get the money.

Q.—Explain the telegram to C. M. Calvert, "Hold," &c. A.—It was understood between us that if representations made at Washington failed to bring the money, I should use my own discretion in negotiating for the returns to be given as they were in New Orleans, and the telegram was to indicate that I had entered upon the second negotiation.

Q.—Explain the figures in the cipher telegram. A.—Each figure meant so many hundred thousand dollars.

Q.—What did Baltimore mean? A.—Baltimore stood for New Orleans.

Q.—What did 29, 30, 1, 2 and 3 mean? A.—That meant that he would be there with the money on one of those days.

Q.—How much did he say he wanted for each member of the board? A.—He said he wanted at least \$200,000 a piece for himself and Anderson and a smaller amount for the negroes.

Q.—Did Wells say in this conversation what he was going to do with his party? A.—He said he was going to beat them.

Q.—After you returned to New Orleans what conversations had you with Wells? A.—I received a dispatch from Colonel Pickett that the negotiations in New York had failed and so stated to Gov. Wells, who then requested me to try to make arrangements in New Orleans. I did so, but did not succeed.

Q.—When you left Washington for New Orleans, did you go with any political instructions? A.—I had instructions to observe the situation.

Q.—Who gave you those instructions? A.—I think Col. Casey told me that Mr. Chandler wished me to do that.

Q.—Who paid your expenses? A.—They were paid by the internal revenue bureau.

Maddox stated that Wells told him on the noon of December 6, that the majority for the Hayes electors would be about 1,200 to 1,800. Wells also told him at divers times that he threw out votes wherever it could be most conveniently done.

Q.—Was a cipher agreed upon between you and Gov. Wells before you left New Orleans? A.—There was, and he had the key so that he might understand the telegrams I should send.

Q.—Could you give the contents of the cipher? A.—I don't think I could swear to the contents.

Q.—Can you give any part of the contents? A.—I think the word "hold" was the principal word of the code.

Maddox stated that the first person he talked with when he came to Washington was the President; the next one he talked with was Mr. Stewart, a lawyer and republican from Baltimore. He then saw Secretary Cameron and presented the case fully to him, as suggested by Gov. Wells. He told the Secretary that Wells wanted one million dollars, but the Secretary declined to accede to the proposition. Does not know Gov. Edward F. Noyes or whether he saw him in New Orleans; can't say whether he was present when Wells wrote the short note to witness; while Wells was writing that some gentleman came in and spoke to him; witness dictated that note.

Q.—Where are the letters which you expect to-morrow morning? A.—I should prefer not to answer.

Mr. Lawrence.—I insist upon the answer.

The Witness.—I will state as a reason why I do not desire to answer that question, that it may prevent me from getting the letters.

Mr. Lawrence, radical.—I still insist.

Mr. Seelye, radical.—I should like to know the reason why the letters would not be produced if the question was answered.

The Witness.—In all probability I shall have the letters to-morrow morning. One of them is sealed and I know its contents. If I disclose their whereabouts now, they might be spirited away, and if they did not come forth to-morrow morning it might be a reflection upon myself.

By Mr. Burdard: Q.—When did you last have possession of the letters? A.—A few weeks ago.

Q.—Where did you leave them—in Washington or New Orleans? A.—That is exactly

what I do not desire to answer, inasmuch as I have stated that I will produce the letters to-morrow morning. I am ready to state all about it if the committee compel me to do so.

The committee decided by a party vote not to compel the witness to disclose the whereabouts of the letters at this time.

By Mr. Lawrence: Q.—When were these letters left with their present custodian? A.—The answer to this question would disclose the whereabouts of the letters.

Q.—Did Gov. Wells ask you to see any leading democrats? A.—No, sir. There was no necessity for that.

Q.—What ever you did, then, in this matter you did on your own motion? A.—No, sir. I did it on my joint motion.

Q.—When you returned to New Orleans did he ask you whether you had seen any democrats? A.—I do not know whether he asked that question, but it was understood between us that I was to go.

Q.—Did he ask you to raise money for the board? A.—He said he wanted money; he must have money; he would have money; this was the last chance he had.

Q.—Was Col. Casey in Washington when you were there? A.—He was. I had several conversations with him.

Q.—Did Col. Pickett tell you that he had written to New Orleans to his democratic friends and told them to beware of you; that you were a dangerous man? A.—He did, sir; and I told him I knew all about it; that I knew the contents of the letter forty-eight hours after it had been received.

Q.—To whom did he write? A.—To Col. Zacharie.

Q.—Did you turn over to a third party the letters spoken of before the subpoena was served upon you? A.—Yes, sir; some three or four weeks ago.

Q.—Did you show the letters to the party you gave them to? A.—I showed him the open letter to me, and am very sure I explained to him the contents of the sealed one addressed to Senator West.

Q.—Was he a democrat or a republican? A.—A republican.

Q.—Why not the letter to Senator West delivered? A.—I prefer not to answer that question.

The committee insisting, the witness said: "I had received information of a delicate character, which led me not to trust West."

Q.—Did you have any information regarding Senator West after you reached here which you had not when you left New Orleans? A.—Yes, sir, some.

Q.—Did you receive any information regarding Senator West from anybody in New Orleans? A.—Yes, sir, from Judge Alexander Walker.

Q.—It was in consequence of this conversation with Judge Walker and others that you decided not to deliver it to Senator West? A.—Partly. And when I came on here and reflected I did not think it safe to place myself in Senator West's hands.

Q.—Is the letter at New Orleans now? A.—That I decline to answer.

Q.—What was the subject of your conversation with Judge Walker? A.—It was a separate and distinct negotiation, which he seemed very anxious to bring to a favorable result. He said he would try to raise money, and I communicated the fact to Gov. Wells. I did not tell Gov. Wells that I had interviews with Walker, nor that Col. Pickett had interviews with Mr. Hewitt or Mr. Morrissey.

Q.—Was there any arrangement between you and Col. Pickett as to the share of the money he and you were to get? A.—No, sir; we did not know how much money would be gotten.

Q.—Did you expect to get any compensation yourself? A.—Well, I thought the laborer was worthy of his hire.

Q.—When did you first open negotiations with Col. Pickett? A.—After my interview with Secretary Cameron.

Q.—Did you tell him that you had a letter for Senator West? A.—I told him after I had commenced the negotiations with him.

By Mr. Burdard: Q.—When did you first conclude not to deliver the letter to Senator West? A.—Before I saw Secretary Cameron. I know this, because I showed the Secretary the sealed letter, and told him of the contents, and also of my determination not to deliver it.

By Mr. Lawrence: Q.—In your interview with Cameron did you tell him the amount of money wanted? A.—I told him that Wells wanted a million dollars; that they would probably have to run away from there and wanted to be provided for.

The committee adjourned until to-day.

The Louisiana Investigating Committee had Maddox before it again to-day, and in the course of his testimony, which was of the same tenor as that given heretofore, he said that the letters from Gov. Wells to Senator West and from Wells to Madison, but to designate where they now were might jeopardize their production before the committee.

The committee gave witness till to-morrow morning to produce the letters. They purport to treat of the million offer.

The examination of the returning board was then begun, and Anderson was put on the stand.

Anderson testified that Dr. W. A. Robeson proposed to him to sell out to the democratic party, for which he was promised \$200,000. Anderson said he scouted the proposition, and said to Robeson, if you wish to retain my friendship, you must not mention this to me again. Dr. Robeson was a democratic State Senator. His testimony was continued, but was altogether in relation to the mode adopted by the returning board, as to the throwing out of votes, &c.

News of the Day.

A band of desperadoes organized for robbery and murder has been discovered in Williamson county, Ill., and the leader, James Moss, and James Jackson, Frank Palmer and another, member of the gang, have been arrested. A band of train wreckers, who have been operating on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad, in thinly settled parts of Southern Kansas, have also been recently pursued by the police, and on Saturday last two of them, named Meadows and Mead, were arrested by the United States deputy marshal, newly ironed, and taken to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where they will be tried.

Two or three hundred canvas-back ducks were caught last during the late freeze off the Talbot shore of the Choptank river, nearly opposite Cambridge, and in that condition were picked up without difficulty. Speculations upon this singular occurrence are various, some supposing that the snow and sleet caked on the duck's wings, thus preventing their flight, and others that they were caught in the moving ice.

At the small settlement of Egbertville, N. J., Patrick Dolan, a laborer, awakened his mother about 3 o'clock yesterday morning and without warning killed her with some blunt instrument. He then attacked his sister and beat her so shockingly that her death is expected. Dolan was lodged in jail by neighbors who heard the cries and interfered.

Edward Fox, of Titusville, after twenty-three years' struggle in the State and United States Courts, has received a verdict of damages to the amount of \$50,000 against the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.

The new Board of Police Commissioners at Washington yesterday reinstated Major Richards, the Superintendent of Police, and also the detectives who had been suspended.

THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.—In this old sterling exponent of Virginia thought and sentiment, we have what is regarded by many of its numerous readers as the best paper published in Virginia. It has made an honorable record for enterprise and ability for more than three generations, and acquires new vigor and influence as it advances in age. We welcome it to our sanctum, and wish that its shadow may never grow less. Halifax Record.

The Electoral Commission.

The Electoral Commission met in the room of the Supreme Court at three o'clock yesterday afternoon.

A communication from the two Houses of Congress, in joint session, was presented by Mr. Gorham, Secretary of the Senate, and read as follows:

HALL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 1, 1877.

To the President of the Commission:

More than one return or paper purporting to be a return or certificate of electoral votes of the State of Florida having been received and this day opened in the presence of the two Houses of Congress, and objections thereto having been made, the said returns, with all accompanying papers, and also the objections thereto, are herewith submitted to the judgment and decision of the commission, as provided by law.

T. W. FERRY, President of the Senate.

The Presiding Justice.—It is suggested, and I think with propriety, that the doors may now be opened and that proper persons be admitted.

Mr. Justice Bradley.—I understand there are three certificates from the State of Florida that have been sent to us. I should think that the proper course would be to have these three certificates read, and then as each is read let the parties be called upon to state whether they are objected to and who are the objectors. Until we read these certificates or hear them read we do not know what we have before us. After that it will be time to take such other order in regard to proceeding as may be necessary.

Representative Payne.—I move that the certificates with the papers be printed at as early an hour as possible.

The Presiding Justice.—The motion before the commission is that the three certificates in the case of Florida be printed with the objections thereto. If that is your pleasure you will say so (putting the question). It is agreed to. How soon can they be printed?

Considerable discussion ensued as to the printing of other papers accompanying the certificates and objections. A motion to this effect was made by Representative Abbott, but withdrawn in order to give time to consider the question as to whether all papers could properly be printed with the certificates and objections.

The Presiding Justice.—The motion is withdrawn. (A pause.) I am requested now to call for the names of counsel who appear in the case on each side.

Representative Field.—We have several counsel on our side. We have Mr. O'Connor of New York, Judge Black of Pennsylvania, Judge Trumbull of Illinois, Mr. Merrick of Washington, and Mr. Green of New Jersey.

The Presiding Justice.—Counsel not exceeding two in number on each side are allowed to participate in argument.

Representative Field.—We have not selected these two. I only mentioned names to you in answer to questions: How many there are? who are concerned in the case? We shall arrange that matter in the course of the evening.

The Presiding Justice.—That will answer. Who are counsel on the other side?

Mr. Evans.—As representing objectors to certificates other than those that have been represented in enumeration by Mr. Field, I will state that Mr. Stoughton, Mr. Stanley Matthews, Mr. Shellabarger and myself are expected to represent objectors in some cases which will appear, and I would ask the instruction of the court, if it is pertinent now to make inquiry, as to what is included in the phrase, "on the merits of any case presented to it," whether that means any issue joined on objections to any particular certificate, or whether it includes all that arises in case of a particular State.

The Presiding Justice.—I think counsel will have to judge of that matter for themselves. Unless they have some question to ask the commission it is hardly within the province of the presiding justice to determine that.

Mr. Evans.—As I understand them, if the commission please, that the designation of two counsel will be sufficiently early made when the case is up.

Senator Edmunds.—That is merely for the final argument.

The Presiding Justice.—After the objectors have opened the case?

Mr. Evans.—So we understand.

Mr. Justice Bradley.—I suggest to Mr. Evans that probably the construction of that would be "the case on its merits;" the principal question would be included in that term, and all interlocutory or other motions would not be included in that phrase.

Senator Edmunds.—It covers the whole subject of a particular State.

Senator Sargent, in reply to a question of the commission as to which of the objectors would present the case, aside from counsel on conference, it is determined that Mr. McCrary and Mr. Kasson will appear.

Representative Garfield.—I think there was one objection filed regarding which no action has been taken, an objection I believe from Senator Jones. I have heard the president of the commission make no allusion to it. I inquire whether there is any special hearing to be had on that objection? I think it was different from other objections which have been filed. I refer to it because it makes a distinct case, and is a different objection to its character from either of the other two that have been referred to.

The Presiding Justice.—My impression is (though I do not make that decision in behalf of the commission) that the several objections to returns from a State constitute one case, and two objectors will be heard upon one side and two on the other, and after they shall have been heard two counsel will be heard upon one side and two upon the other. Unless otherwise advised by the commission that will be the ruling.

Representative Field.—Will you allow me to say that perhaps there may be some misunderstanding in regard to that rule unless I state to you precisely facts?

The Presiding Justice.—Proceed, sir.

Representative Field.—There are objections to the four votes of Florida on each side; that is to say, we object to the four votes mentioned in the first return.

Senator Edmunds.—Which are they?

Representative Field.—They are, if I may use the names of the candidates, the Hayes electors. We object on our part to those votes, certificates and lists.

Senator Edmunds.—And the other gentlemen object to the others.

Representative Field.—Mr. Sargent, Mr. Kasson, and the gentlemen on the other side specifically object to ours. Then there is the additional objection made by Senator Jones, of Florida, and others to one of the Hayes electors as ineligible under the Constitution. That is a distinct matter, and we supposed it would be taken up quite distinctively. It is a minor affair, and should not encumber the principal one, and if the commission will allow us we will designate as objectors Mr. Thompson and Mr. Jenks. I suppose the discussion of that matter will not take up much of the time of the commission. At all events, as a matter of form, if you will allow us, we will suggest that Mr. Thompson and Mr. Jenks be the objectors, and as to counsel we will advise to-night and inform the commission to-morrow who will represent us.

The Presiding Justice.—When you are advised what you desire you will submit a motion to the commission and I will have it determined. At present I am not prepared to rule otherwise than I have. If there be no further suggestion to be presented I will put the question to the commission that when this commission adjourn it adjourn to meet at half-past ten o'clock to-morrow morning. Adopted.

The room having been cleared the commission remained for consultation, and after some time spent in deliberation, the commission adjourned till ten o'clock this morning.

The High Commission on the count of the electoral vote met in the room of the Supreme Court at 10:30 o'clock this morning. When Mr. Field, of the House objects, on the part of the Tilden electors, to a clear and concise argument, in which he succinctly stated the whole facts connected with the electoral count in that State. He urged that the question before the commission was not whether they could go behind the certificates, but whether the certificates could go behind the truth. He held up the certificates of Gov. Stearns, and declared that it was pollution to touch them. They were steeped in fraud. It was said that these papers implied truth and could not be attacked. It was not so. Fraud vitiated everything it touched, and these papers were saturated with fraud. Mr. Field closed with an eloquent peroration apostrophizing the statue of freedom on the dome of the Capitol.

Mr. Tucker, of Virginia, followed Mr. Field, and spoke for about three quarters of an hour, making one of the strongest, clearest and most brilliant constitutional arguments that has ever been heard in the Capitol in favor of the election of the Tilden electors in Florida.

At the conclusion of Mr. Tucker's speech, Mr. Kasson, of the radical objectors, asked for time to prepare a reply, when the commission took a recess till 3 o'clock.

While the court room is pretty well filled, quiet is observed and everything proceeds as if before the Supreme Court. The five justices occupy the centre of the judges' platform and on either side sit the Senate and House commissions. The objectors sit at the main table, while counsel sit in their rear. Among the distinguished counsel are Messrs. O'Connor, Trumbull, Carpenter, Stoughton, Evans, Merrick, Whitney and others, while a very large number of the most distinguished men of the country are present as spectators.

After recess the commission heard Messrs. Kasson and McCrary in behalf of the radical objectors.

Letter from Richmond.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

RICHMOND, VA., Jan. 31, 1877.—A young gentleman of this city has been expelled from the Virginia Military Institute, he having received demerit marks for smoking, which is against the rules. This was his only offense.

He reached home to-day smoking a cigarette, and looking as cheerful as possible under the circumstances.

One of our leading churches is considering the advisability of getting a cornet player in the choir. The cornet has been introduced in the choir at the North with great success. The organ simply plays the accompaniment and the cornet plays the air. It is much easier for a congregation to follow the cornet than the organ. It is a fine leading instrument.

Col. Samuel A. Swann, of Caroline, was elected in joint session Superintendent of the Penitentiary.

The Superintendent of the Penitentiary has the appointment of the first, second and third assistant superintendents and the filling of a number of other places connected with the institution. Col. Swann had the inside track in the race from the beginning, as his friends urged his claims for the place a year ago.

The following bills were passed by the Senate to-day: Authorizing the Secretary of the Commonwealth to furnish certain officers in the Commonwealth with session sets, under certain conditions; conferring on the police of Alexandria certain powers of constables; amending the law in relation to records in the Court of Appeals; to reduce bonds of ministers of the gospel; to provide for appeals from the decision of school boards in reference to the construction of school buildings; to amend the law in relation to the appointment of school trustees in towns of less than 5,000; and to authorize the city of Winchester to subscribe to the capital stock of the Martinsburg and Potomac railroad.

The bill to authorize fiduciaries to sell insolvent claims was lost.

The House passed the following bills: To amend section 5 of chapter 8 of the Code of 1873 with regard to election districts; for the protection of fish in all the waters of the Commonwealth; to amend sections 3, 6 and 7 of chapter 270 of the acts of 1874-5 in relation to the time of meeting of the board of supervisors and other powers; and for the protection of sheep in the county of Culpeper, with Senate amendments.

The Speaker laid before the House a memorial from General B. T. Johnson, asking the House for a prompt and thorough investigation into the settlements of Selden, Withers & Co., and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, as called for by a resolution of the House.

In the House a petition was presented from citizens of the counties of Fairfax and Alexandria to amend the law so as to exempt from a specific tax of \$10 all book agents who sell or procure subscriptions for any religious, agricultural, or horticultural books, pamphlets, or publications not published in this State, which was appropriately referred.

Strasburg vs. the Railroad.

The old fight between the town of Strasburg and the B. & O. R. R. is going on in the Legislature. The contest is over a resolution which passed the House three years ago, and which then failed in the Senate, to instruct the Attorney General to institute proceedings to compel a compliance with the charter, or forfeit the franchise of the company. Judge Allen reintroduced the resolution last winter and the committee reported it adversely. This winter he has tried it again with better results. It is now on the House calendar on favorable report, and will likely pass that body. We understand the railroad company were represented there by counsel who now propose to compromise by building a depot near the centre of Strasburg and running all trains to it; and, further, that the authorities of the town have indicated that they will be satisfied with this.